Amendments to the Claims

In The Claims

Please cancel Claims 4 through 7 without prejudice.

Please add Claims 8 through 13 as follows:

1. (Original)   An apparatus for implementing phase-contrast or modulation-contrast observation on microscopes with the aid of a modulator arranged in each pupil plane in the observation beam path and containing at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude, and of a stop arranged in the illumination beam path,

    wherein the modulator is mounted tiltably.

2. (Original)   The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the layers of the modulator are configured in such a way that the greatest possible phase shift is already achieved by a slight tilt.

3. (Original)   The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the layers comprise glass plates of various glasses.

4 - 7. (Cancelled)

8. (New)   The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the modulator possesses a defined variable layer configuration.

9. (New)   The apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein the modulator possesses a defined variable layer configuration.

10. (New)   The apparatus as defined in Claim 3, wherein the modulator possesses a defined variable layer configuration.

11. (New)   An apparatus for implementing phase-contrast or modulation-contrast observation on microscopes with the aid of a modulator arranged in each pupil plane in the observation beam path and containing at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude, and of a stop arranged in the illumination beam path,

wherein for phase shifting, optical polarization means in combination with retardation plates are present.

12. (New)   An apparatus for implementing phase-contrast or modulation-contrast observation on microscopes with the aid of a modulator arranged in each pupil plane in the observation beam path and containing at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude, and of a stop arranged in the illumination beam path,

wherein various modulators are arranged on a carrier in a manner introducible into the beam path, and are selectably mounted, tiltably individually or tiltably together with the carrier, on that carrier.

13. (New)   A method for implementing a defined phase shift in the implementation of phase-contrast or modulation-contrast observation on microscopes with the aid of a modulator arranged in each pupil plane in the observation beam path and containing at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude, and of a stop arranged in the illumination beam path,

wherein the modulator is tilted.